

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
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R 201850Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1369

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINS SHUM HA

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: DETENTION OF SUSPECTED HAITIAN COMMUNIST

1. DURING CONVERSATION JAN. 16, FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS INFORMED ME THAT A HAITIAN CITIZEN EMPLOYED IN UNSPECIFIED LOCAL FOREIGN BANK, ONE FRITZ PIERRE-LOUIS, HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER DETENTION ON SUSPICION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BANK'S ROUTINE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON PIERRE-LOUIS, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM BELGIUM (AND WHOSE BELGIAN WIFE REMAINS THERE) HAD DISCLOSED ACTIVE COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS, AND BANK PASSED ON INFORMATION TO GOH. BRUTUS SAID THAT IF INTERROGATION FAILED TO BEAR OUT SUBVERSIVE INTENT, PIERRE-LOUIS WOULD BE DEPORTED; OTHERWISE HE WOULD BE TRIED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

2. BRUTUS SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INQUIRIES ON CASE FROM BOTH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAD REPLIED THAT PIERRE-LOUIS WAS UNDER SPECIFIC INDICTMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNUSUAL FOR BRUTUS TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ABOUT A SECURITY CASE OF THIS NATURE. CLEARLY HE WISHED TO GIVE GOVERNMENT VIEW BEFORE COMPLAINT WAS BROUGHT
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TO OUR ATTENTION BY OTHER SOURCES. GOH IS GRADUALLY

BECOMING MORE RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSION OF SUCH CASES. NEVERTHELESS, MOTIVES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, IN HAITIAN EYES, REMAIN HIGHLY SUSPECT, AND THE SHEER VOLUME AND ACCUSATORY TONE OF SUCH INQUIRIES HAVE LONG IRRITATED GOH OFFICIALS. MOREOVER, AS INTERIOR MINISTER BLANCHET TOLD ME JAN 20, GOH HAS NO INTENTION OF CONDONING SUBVERSIVE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES ON ITS TERRITORY (COMMUNISTS ARE LEGALLY OUTLAWED HERE), NOR WILL IT BE DETERRED FROM TAKING THE SECURITY MEASURES IT DEEMS NECESSARY BY COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA OR AGITATION SUCH AS DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED AGAINST THE HAITIAN EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS.

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